

The following may be copied for your parents for information

Parents –Ready for the ECCE Scheme

What is the ECCE Scheme?

The Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme gives young children one year free pre-school before they enter primary. The Scheme was introduced in January 2010 and will be available in September 2010 for children who were born between 2nd February 2006 and 30th June 2007.



How do I get a pre-school place for my child?

1. *Check if the pre-school you want for your child is participating in the scheme*

OR

Check the names and contact details of participating pre-school services with your local City or County Childcare Committee

2. **BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE** – Talk with the Service

- Check that the pre-school has places available in September
- The scheme entitles you to up to 15 hours per week (over 38 weeks) or 11.15 hours (over 50 weeks) but be clear as to the number of days available to you – the pre-school has limited places



3. *Have your child's PPSN available* – this will be needed to verify the place

What is pre-school?

A pre-school service provides care and education for young children before they enter primary school. Pre-school services include the following:

- Playgroup
- Creche / Full Day Care
- Montessori,
- Naíonraí (Irish Language pre-school)
- Steiner (Kindergarten)
- Childminding



Why is pre-school important?

Pre-school care and education is good for children, it

- Helps them make friends and build friendships
- Supports their learning
- Allows them learn through play
- Supports them develop and improve a range of skills
- Develops their concentration, helps them to listen, take turns and problem solve in a group situation
- Provides opportunities for creative and messy play
- Prepares them for the transition to primary

Above all, good quality pre-school gets young children off to a good start

What should you look for in a quality pre-school?

A quality pre-school should:

- Have caring and trained staff
- Have good child-adult ratios that support the development of responsive relationships
- Be a place where there are strong relationships between children, staff and families
- Have a clear and well maintained facility
- Be a comfortable, safe and stimulating environment for children
- Have defined play or activity areas, e.g., book corner, home corner, etc
- Have a balanced curriculum which provides for play
- Provide opportunities to play outdoors
- Have a broad range of equipment and materials

*Above all pre-school, whatever the setting should
Be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for your child*